



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Peter PÖCHLAUER et al.

Docket No. 2001-0331A

Serial No. 09/834,926

Group Art Unit 1623

Filed April 16, 2001

Examiner P. Zucker

PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF
OPTICALLY AND CHEMICALLY
HIGHLY PURE (*R*)- or
(*S*)- α -HYDROXYCARBOXYLIC ACIDS

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900
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Done

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated August 10, 2001, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 to 10 without prejudice to the subject matter thereof and add the following claims in their place:

11. (New) A process for the preparation of optically and chemically highly pure (*R*)- and (*S*)- α -hydroxycarboxylic acids, which comprises recrystallizing impure (*R*)- and (*S*)- α -hydroxycarboxylic acids, prepared by acidic hydrolysis of the (*R*)- and (*S*)-cyanohydrins obtained by enzyme-catalyzed addition of a cyanide group to the corresponding aldehydes or ketones, in an aromatic hydrocarbon, optionally in the presence of a cosolvent, and obtaining optically and chemically highly pure (*R*)- and (*S*)- α -hydroxycarboxylic acids having an optical purity of over 98%ee.